

Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee Minutes of Monday, October 6, 2003

The Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee met on Monday, October 6, 2003, in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Municipal Government Center, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Elizabeth Whiting, Chair
Vice Mayor Mervin Jackson
Vice Chair Ric Knight

Peg Coleman
Sandy Kane
Gabe Kelemen

Town Staff Present

Calvin Grow
Nick Colonna
Mike Bomgardner
Mark McCartney

Citizens present

Craig Lane
Cheryl Driscoll

1. *Minutes:* On motion by Sandy Kane, seconded by Nick Colonna, the minutes of the August 25, 2003 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. *Public Comment:* There was no public comment.
3. *FY '04 Traffic Calming Projects:* Mike Bomgardner presented the results of speed studies of east- and west-bound traffic on Meade Drive, S.W. at #116-#199 Meade Drive, S.W. conducted on October 3-5, 2003. As calculated, the studies showed an average speed of 26 mph in both directions. Craig Lane and committee members questions a number of apparent discrepancies, including whether the 0 mph results for seven 15-minutes time frames were used in the averaging, since it seemed clear no actual results were being clocked; whether the east and west results were mistakenly labeled, since they seemed to be opposite of expectations; what results were logged during the periods the report said were captured, but not reported. Staff will conduct follow-up studies to capture data starting at 12:01am one Friday and running for 24 hours. (b) Calvin Grow reminded the committee that the Town Council had approved \$20,000.00 for Southwest quadrant improvement and \$21,500.00 for the Southeast quadrant. He reported that he had been able to get the Southwest crosswalks in Kincaid Forest subdivision and Tavistock Farms subdivision within the approved budget. The costs for the crosswalk at Meade Drive, S.W. and Hague Drive, S.W. have been reduced to \$6,700.00. This leaves \$13,300.00 of the funds approved for the Southwest Quadrant as well as \$6,888.00 that the Council allowed the committee to carry forward from the FY'03 budget. Liz Whiting asked about the County Club Drive, S.W. painted median. Discussion clarified that the committee had hoped to paint a temporary version, to be followed by installation of impressed asphalt the following fiscal year. Calvin Grow reported that staff were concerned that the way in which the temporary median would have to be marked would be resisted by residents and that Tom Mason felt it was important for the

committee to conduct an outreach effort to gauge community reaction. Liz Whiting reminded the committee that they had tentatively approved committing the carryover funds to extending the Bypass fencing and suggested this should remain in consideration on what to suggest to the Council for funding. The feeling was that together with touting the rising ridership on Safe-T-Ride, the committee should ask the Council to directly fund an extension of the fence at least as far as the northern end of the DMV site and possibly up to the Edwards Ferry Road, N.E. intersection. Calvin Grow also reported that the construction cost for the South King Street/Fairfax Street, S.E. median improvement had been recalculated to \$60,00.00. Liz Whiting also suggested that the Committee look for approval of the design funds for the Edwards Ferry Road, N.E./Plaza Street, S.E. "road diet" cut during the FY'04 budgeting process. Council's limiting approval to projects deliverable during the one budget year under consideration either will result in never being able to deliver bigger projects, or, at the least, will result in creating delivery gaps and preclude consideration of more costly, but potentially more effective and satisfactory projects if they can't get the design consideration they need. It also will contribute to the inaccuracy of budget projections that would be improved by having more detailed descriptions of exactly what is needed to deliver a particular project. (c) The committee decided that Calvin Grow and Liz Whiting would work up a menu of options for the midyear budget submission for the November 3, 2003 committee meeting. Mr. Jackson encouraged the committee to make a comprehensive presentation explaining the committee's involvement in the Safe-T-Ride program and how the Bypass fencing relates; summarizing what has been learned from the Arlington County field trip; showing proposed traffic calming installations and explaining how they work; reminding Council of the need to address traffic calming in the Comprehensive Plan revision and DCSM revisions to adopt standards, as well as pursuing enabling legislation for recommended measures presently disallowed by, among other things, VDOT standards. (d) The committee also reached consensus that for any and all of the projects under discussion, there should be written communication with the affected residents describing the proposed project and noting where and when a meeting would be held for more information and input. (e) Staff will review file pictures from the Arlington County field trip as illustrative of the proposed Southwest improvements to work up both the upcoming presentation to the Council, but also for use in the outreach materials.

4. *Way Finding Program Update:* The staff report indicated that the bids received and the big specifications should be reworked and the project will be rebid to separate installation as an option the Town can reserve for itself. Given escalation of the South King Street median costs, the likelihood of tapping into Way Finding funds to deliver that project seems more remote.
5. *Committee Member Concerns:* (a) Sandy Kane asked about a pending rezoning along land abutting Lawson Road, S.E. and backing into Kincaid

Forest. The committee felt that other than suggesting that traffic calming measures be considered in evaluating applications and be incorporated into the comprehensive plan and DCSM they didn't see a role for the committee. (b) Ric Knight raised the issue of the eastbound traffic merge lane from West Market Street onto the Bypass being dangerously short. He agreed that it was hard to characterize this as a "residential" traffic concern. Calvin Grow said he would forward VDOT contact information to Ric Knight. (c) Liz Whiting noted that the committee was invited to a presentation by the Town's parking consultant on Thursday, October 9th at 8:00 AM in the Council chamber. Liz Whiting hoped there would be some sort of product the committee could have reviewed in advance and offered comment on, but there was not.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next meeting is Monday, November 3, 2003 at 7:00 PM. Staff is to contact Liz Whiting if anything arises needing Committee consideration in the interim.

Midyear budget funding candidates:

- 1. Extension of existing RT 15 Bypass fencing to Edwards ferry road...\$70,000
- 2. South King Street median installation (second submission under review) \$60,000
- 3. County Club Drive, S.W. (estimate separately)
 - (i) Painted parking lanes.....\$5,000
 - (ii) Painted temporary "median".....\$5,000
 - (iii) Permanent imprinted "median".....\$60,000
- 4. Greenway Farms crosswalk (imprinted) – if study results support the installation the cost would be approximately. \$8,160.00 each (does not include H.C. ramp)
- 5. Edwards Ferry Road, N.E./Plaza Street, N.E. "road diet" design funds...\$9,000